

THE SOUNDPOST

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Viols – A chapter of the Viola da Gamba Society of America
 On the web: WWW.PNVIOLS.ORG

The President's Message

Bill Warren



Welcome to 2017! We have some very exciting viola da gamba events to look forward to start off this new year. First of all we are excited to have Tim Scott, the President of Cascadia Viols (the VdGSA Chapter based in Portland) for our presenter on Saturday, January 21st. Tim has been instrumental in helping to form that very vibrant and active society. He will be doing a presentation on Byrd, featuring the *Mass for 5 voices*. He will also include some technical warmups and useful exercises and then

conduct coached sessions in the afternoon. Additional details about Tim are inside this edition of *The SoundPost*.

Then there are two outstanding concerts by *The Three Gambists* honoring the legacy of Margriet Tindemans. The first is Saturday evening January 21st featuring music of Bach and the second is Sunday afternoon featuring French music. Both of these concerts are in the excellent acoustic venue of Queen Anne Christian Church where we have our Play Days. I am sure you are very familiar with these “Three Gambists”—Joanna Blendulf, John Dornenburg, and Elisabeth Reed. They have all led our Play Day sessions in the past and have also been on the faculty for our PNV workshops in the summer. You will want to be sure to attend one or both concerts featuring these outstanding artists.

We were very fortunate to have Joanna Blendulf as the presenter for our November Play Day. As usual, she gave an inspirational presentation in the morning and conducted one coached session in the afternoon before leaving to practice for an evening performance. Be sure to read the review written by Patty Evans, one of our new members this year. Her husband, Jeff, wrote the review of our first Play Day session presented by Chris Briden. They have set the standard as new members for volunteering for the write-ups!

Play Day Schedule

- 9:30 am - Check in, sign up for consorts, tune
- 10:00 am - Grand Consort Presentation
- 11:30 am - Annual Meeting
- 12:00 pm - Lunch Break
- 1:00 pm - First Consort Session
- 2:30 pm - Second Consort Session
- 4:00 pm - Clean up

\$20 Fee per participant
 A = 415

Saturday, November 19th: Joanna Blendulf

Play Day Location
Queen Anne Christian Church
 1316 3rd Ave. W
 Seattle, WA 98119



I hope that all of you have had a great holiday season and are anticipating a lot of viol playing in 2017. I am looking forward to seeing you Saturday January 21 for our next Play Day.

Bill Warren
President, PNV

Tim Scott to lead January 21st Play Day!

Photo courtesy of Cascadia Viols. Bio courtesy of Tim Scott and <http://www.reed.edu/music/instructors/Scott.html>



Tim Scott was born in Brooklyn, New York on July 4th 1950. He attended the High School of Music and Art and enjoyed summers at Tanglewood, Meadowmount, and at master classes in Portugal. During this time, he studied cello with Maurice Eisenberg, with whom he continued to study while attending Juilliard School of Music and Sarah Lawrence College. Tim then became a rock musician and toured with Harry Chapin for two years! He recently retired from 41 years with the Oregon Symphony (he started with them in 1971!).

Tim has played viola da gamba since 1980, when he commenced his baroque cello and viola da gamba studies, the latter with Eva Heinitz and in master classes with Wieland Kuijken. Tim has performed with the Portland Baroque Orchestra, the Oregon Bach Festival and as soloist in the Bach Passions. Tim is currently President of the newest chapter of the VdGSA—Cascadia Viols.

Joanna Blendulf Play Day Review

Patty Evans

I volunteered to write a summary of the November 19th “play day” because I thought I’d be able to get my husband, Jeff, to write it, but he’s making me do it!

We were very fortunate to have as presenter for this event, Joanna Blendulf, who was not only very instructive, but also wonderfully patient and enthusiastic. For a beginner, like myself, I thought she struck just the right balance in terms of offering basic advice along with more advanced technical instruction. The very first thing she brought up after observing us play (and hearing some harsh sounds), was the importance of playing with a relaxed bow arm and keeping your shoulder down. Furthermore, and I’m sure she was addressing me personally, she helped us understand that relaxing the whole body--especially the lower jaw--will go a long way toward improving our overall playing and sound.

Before lunch, Joanna worked with the entire ensemble on three short pieces. We began with a 4-part *In Nomine* by John Thorne--a composer new to most, if not all of us. For the dotted rhythm

that runs throughout the piece she suggested and demonstrated a specific bowing which she dubbed “Z bowing”--the idea being that there’s very little uptake of the bow on the short note. (Jeff misheard her and spent the whole class wondering why she called it “D bowing”). Next, we worked on two wonderful song settings by Byrd: *In Fields Abroad* and *Why do I use my paper, ink and pen?*. The recurring upward leap in “Fields” prompted her advice to try to land on the upper note with a push bow (I hope I have that right--I was feeling a little muddle-headed about the bowing at that point since I had enough on my plate just finding the notes!). It was gratifying to hear the improvements in our reading of “Fields” after implementing her suggestions for dynamics and bowings.

After lunch, we divided into smaller groups. Joanna continued to work with those who opted to attend the coached session. First, we worked on a short joyful “fantasie” by another obscure composer, Lupus Episcopius. I think everyone particularly enjoyed playing this little gem. The last two pieces we tackled, *In Nomine nos. 6 & 7* by Alfonso Ferrabosco the younger, were much more difficult--particularly number 7 which was highly chromatic. Again, I’d say that Joanna struck the right balance in her choice of repertoire--this final piece provided a challenge to even the most advanced players.

Personally, I loved her choice of music and was thankful that I’d had a couple of days to look it over beforehand. I would again like to request that music be made available ahead of time (the sooner the better) for each play day event. If all your attention is given to finding the notes, you can’t really benefit as much from the finer points of instruction. Ideally, we could relieve the presenters from the onerous task of bringing printed out music for everyone. This would require some planning ahead so that attending members know they’re responsible for bringing their own parts.

Turnout for the event was very good and there were at least two new faces- including one youngster (i.e. under 18)! Could this be the beginning of a trend?

Gallery Concerts presents The Three Gambists in two concerts: Saturday, January 21st and Sunday, January 22nd

Michael King

Gallery Concerts, in collaboration with Pacific Northwest Viols, will be presenting “The Three Gambists”, in memory of Margriet Tindemans, with guest artists: Joanna Blendulf, John Dornenburg, and Elisabeth Reed, violas da gamba, and Jillon Stoppels Dupree, harpsichord.

The first concert will be held Saturday, January 21st, 7:30PM and features:

- J.S. Bach: 3 sonatas for Viola da Gamba and Harpsichord
- Nicolai: Sonata a 3 in A
- J.S. Bach: Adagio from Trio Sonata No.1 for Organ (arr. Dornenberg)



The second concert will be held Sunday, January 22nd, 3:00PM and features:

- Music from the Court of Louix XIV by Marais, Sainte Colombe and Boismortier
- Music from the Court of Frederick the Great: Rameau (arr. Ludwig Christian Hesse)

Both concerts will be held in the intimate and acoustically superb chapel of Queen Anne Christian Church at 1316 3rd Ave. West, Seattle. Tickets are available for purchase online at <http://www.galleryconcerts.org>.

For additional information:

Gallery Concerts, <http://www.galleryconcerts.org>

E-mail: galleryconcerts.info@gmail.com

Phone: 206-726-6088

Christmas Viols at University Bookstore Bellevue and Seattle

Michael Kingh

Noreen Jacky enthusiastically led several members of PNV and a few guests in celebrating the season with two holiday concerts: the first at the University Bookstore Bellevue Branch on Friday, December 16th and the second at the University Bookstore Seattle Branch on Tuesday, December 20th.



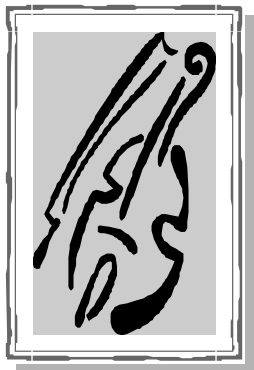
We played a number of holiday arrangements for bass viols by Will Ayton and added a few additional pieces such as arrangements of the Huron Carol, Wexford Carol, and a lovely Greensleeves to a Ground for recorder.

Our group's composition changed a bit, with Noreen Jacky (bass viol), Jon Jacky (alto recorder), Titan Roddick (alto and soprano recorders), and Michael King (bass viol) playing at the Bellevue event, and Noreen, Jon, Michael, Joseph Bichsel (bass viol), and Chris Briden (bass viol) playing at the Seattle event. The Bellevue concert was our first at this venue, and was enjoyed by several employees who enthusiastically asked us many questions about the instruments and music we were playing. (Unfortunately, the store wasn't very full on a Friday evening.) That changed on Tuesday evening in the U-District, where we had a nice audience and were able to fill the store with some great holiday music.

We hope to have more members and friends come and play this year – please plan to join us now!

Pacific Northwest Viols
2328 233rd Ave. NE
Sammamish, WA 98074

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Pacific Northwest Viols - 2016-2017 Season

PNV Play Day Dates (Saturdays):

*\$20 Fee per participant
A = 415*

- ❖ October 8, 2016: Chris Briden
- ❖ November 19, 2016: Joanna Blendulf
- ❖ **January 21, 2017: Tim Scott**
- ❖ March 4, 2017: Lee Inman
- ❖ April 29, 2017: David Morris

Play Day location:

***Queen Anne Christian
Church***

*1316 3rd Ave. W
Seattle, WA 98119*

Pacific Northwest Viols, Board Members (2016-2017)

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|------------------------------------|--|
| ❖ Bill Warren, President | ❖ Chris Briden, Outreach |
| ❖ Jon Brenner, Secretary, Programs | ❖ Michael King, Communications & Member at Large |
| ❖ TBD, Venue Coordinator | ❖ Vicki Hoffman, Programs |
| ❖ Michael LaGaly, Treasurer | ❖ Olga Hauptman, Instrument Rental & Membership Roster Custodian |
| ❖ Janet Slack, Outreach | |

Find Pacific Northwest Viols on the web at: <http://www.pnviols.org> and on Facebook

*The **Soundpost** welcomes reader contributions of any kind: articles, commentary, personal stories, event reportage. E-Mail is preferred, but postal mail or napkin scribbblings are all gladly received, as well.*

Email: miking@microsoft.com